

March 2021

Sunnyfield Matters



Above
Joshua and Support
Worker, Tondari, enjoying
the Hotshots program
at Campsie.

Sunnyfield's 69th anniversary

This year marks Sunnyfield's 69th anniversary. Since beginning in 1952, Sunnyfield has gone from strength to strength, growing our community from the small group of Mums and Dads on the Northern Beaches led by Hazel and Fred Whiddon, to one of the largest disability service providers in NSW today. And, we're proud to continue holding true to the same vision since 1952 – empowering people with disability to have every opportunity to learn, work, make friends, have fun and access the supports they need to live a life of their choosing.

As we look towards the year ahead, we're excited about what's on the horizon for the Sunnyfield communities and the people we serve, with new service developments and programs launching in 2021, including a commitment to making sure young people with disability get the start they need in life.

We're introducing a new Supported Play program in Western Sydney. Every second Saturday, our Kemps Creek and Guildford Hubs will open the doors for kids and their parents and carers, to use our facilities and socialise with others from their community. This service is free and open to Sunnyfield and non-Sunnyfield clients. Visit www.sunnyfield.org.au/supported-play for more details.

Hotshots is Sunnyfield's vacation care program for clients between 6 and 17 years of age. Running in the Hunter region, South Sydney and Tweed Heads, Hotshots is an exciting program of activities to keep kids occupied and engaged while on school holidays. For more details email enquiries@sunnyfield.org.au

Not a Sunnyfield client? Experience first-hand what Sunnyfield services can do for you, for free! Come meet our Western Sydney team, tour the hubs, try out a program, and see if we're a match. Together we'll figure out a support plan tailored to meet your NDIS goals. Visit www.sunnyfield.org.au/services/western-sydney-service-trials to check out the range of programs available for your service trial, and to lodge your enquiry.

A tailored and personalised approach is the future for disability accommodation at Sunnyfield. In partnership with a leading property developer, Sunnyfield is developing innovative Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) homes in Sydney, greater NSW and Canberra, with the first new homes being built due for completion later in 2021. Each home will be custom-built for residents, providing them the opportunity to have their input into the personal design and support elements of their new home. For more information visit www.sunnyfield.org.au/services/accommodation/specialist-disability-accommodation-sda

Registered
NDIS
provider



Sunnyfield
disAbility Services

Message from the Chair and CEO

Dear clients, families, guardians and friends of Sunnyfield,

Welcome everyone to the first edition of Sunnyfield Matters for 2021. While 2020 certainly wasn't the year any of us were expecting, we start 2021 encouraged by the way we partnered with you last year, and emboldened to plan and hope for a better year ahead for all of us.

While a COVID-19 vaccine offers hope, we must remain diligent, maintaining good hygiene, practicing physical distancing, and following NSW Health COVID-19 guidelines, to ensure the wellbeing and safety of clients and staff. As the government and NSW Health confirm vaccination processes and policies, we will ensure all clients, families and carers are informed.

In July this year, it will be five years since the NDIS began its staged roll out across Australia. In many respects the NDIS has been a fantastic success, providing over 430,000 people with disability opportunities they may never have dreamed of or otherwise accessed. With choice and control over how their NDIS funding is spent, clients, families and carers are now starting to choose service providers who meet their specific needs. Sunnyfield is excited by this opportunity to demonstrate how we listen and understand, and then build and develop service programs that support clients, families and carers to achieve their goals.

Some people have not had such a positive experience with the NDIS – plan reviews at times have been inconsistent, funding is not always allocated as sought, and sometimes the NDIA processes are difficult to deal with. Sunnyfield understands these difficulties, and have built a team of experienced and talented people across the organisation who can help you more easily navigate the NDIS. We will support you in whatever way we can. Please email enquiries@sunnyfield.org.au if you would like some assistance. We're here to help you.

While the NDIS is now in its fifth year, it is still evolving. We already know the NDIS is changing the way it will fund community services group activities and supported employment from mid-year; and supported independent living funding is being contained. The NDIA is also piloting independent assessments to create equal access and equity for all participants. The evolution of the NDIS looks likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

At the same time the government are investing in the future of the sector. Through the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) program, the Australian Government has budgeted over \$260 million over the next two years to provide grants to organisations to deliver supports and services for all people with disability.

Together with sector representative groups, Sunnyfield continues to advocate for a NDIS that is fair, equitable and sustainable. We will look for every opportunity to contribute to government initiatives that include, respect, and provide for people with disability, families and carers to have a good life. And we will always remain focused on ensuring the quality of the support services we provide are what the client, family and carer, expect and want.

To this end, we are currently developing our strategy and plan for the future. A future which includes a more dynamic disability sector with more choice and opportunity for people with disability. We are investing in training and development for our staff, to enable more services to be available for more clients. We are creating a vision for a new digital environment for Sunnyfield. We are planning for how to use the gifted Crown Lands. And we are strengthening our governance, risk and compliance.

Thank you to the people with disability, and their families, guardians and carers, who choose Sunnyfield as their service provider and trusted partner.

Best regards

Karen Ingram Chair
Caroline Cuddihy CEO



Above
Karen Ingram,
Sunnyfield Board Chair
(right) and Caroline
Cuddihy, Sunnyfield
CEO (left)

Lake Macquarie makes a splash

Last year, Sunnyfield Community Services Lake Macquarie Hub in collaboration with the Lake Macquarie City Council were awarded with a grant from Swim Australia to create an all-abilities aqua fitness program, a first of its kind offered in the area for people with disability. Together they produced a swim scheme that included adaptive equipment and a fun, inclusive program that had a learning based outcome for each session.

The eight week 'Wild West' themed program saw participants taking part in a weekly 45 minute aqua aerobics class with a lesson in water safety skills. Sunnyfield Lake Macquarie Service Manager, Lisa Barrett said "Participants learnt about sun safety, safety around the pool, how to rescue someone and how to fall safely into water. I had great feedback, participants are loving the fitness."

The grant also allowed for the purchase of adaptive equipment, with three purpose made walkers designed for underwater use and neck braces to assist participant's buoyancy in the water. Not to mention a few water games were included, with participants ending each class on a high with a game of aqua volley ball or given the opportunity to squirt staff with water pistols.

Upon completion of the program, participants were awarded a certificate in water safety and fitness at their celebratory barbeque, along with a medal to take home. When asked how the participants found the program, Lisa said "They loved everything about it. They loved the music and they've taken the learning on board too which is amazing."

As a result of the program, Lake Macquarie Council have decided to continue on with the all-abilities fitness class. Classes are now open to the public every Friday for those that are after an inclusive environment.



1

Lake Macquarie team enjoying their aqua aerobics class at the West Wallsend Swim Centre.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



1



2

1

Rafael and other children attending our vacation care programs received a Christmas gift thanks to a donation from Good 360.

2

Dean enjoys going into the water at the beach, thanks to a grant from the Honda Foundation for a special beach and off-road wheelchair.

3

Wendy and clients at Allambie Community Services Hub were treated to a 'Didge and Dance' session thanks to funding from the Northern Beaches Council.

4

George at Bexley Community Services Hub with their new SMART Board thanks to a local club grant.



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Contact us

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NDIS
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Sunnyfield
For a brighter future